

- 3 -

Commissioner for PatentsApplication No. 10/057,750**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Kindly substitute the enclosed new paragraph [005] for corresponding paragraph [005] as published on December 5, 2002 in Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0178531 A1.

[0005] The use of a ~~strait~~ straight silencer ~~fail~~ fails to generate a sufficient amount of reflexion of said noise against a sound absorbing material and therefore a substantial level of noise is still emitted outside the central vacuum power unit.

Please replace paragraph [0060] with the following amended paragraph:

[0060] As illustrated in the drawings, the present invention preferably refers to a central vacuum power unit "V" comprising in combination a canister 1, a debris collection chamber 3, a first plate 5, a second plate 7, a duct means 9, a filtering means 11, a motor-fan assembly 13, a first baffle means 15, means 17 for generating a flow of cooling air for the electric motor 21, ~~and means 19 for reducing the emission of noise outside the canister 1 and originating from the means for generating a flow of cooling air.~~ Advantageously, the debris collection chamber 3 is in fluid communication with an air intake 2 for the working air loaded with debris. Optionally, this air intake may be in fluid communication with a tubing 4 positioned between said air intake and said debris collection chamber.

Please replace paragraph [0062] with the following amended paragraph:

[0062] The first plate 5 advantageously extends across said hollow interior 25 and is mounted to said sidewall 23 by any appropriate means well known to a main skill in the art (example by welding). Preferably, the first plate 5 is provided with a first opening 27. This plate 5 is advantageously of such size and shape to close one end of the canister 1. The second plate 7 advantageously extends across the hollow interior 25, is provided with a first opening ~~21~~ 31

- 4 -

Commissioner for PatentsApplication No. 10/057,750

and a second opening 33. Plates 5 and 7 are made of any appropriate material, especially from a sheet of steel or a sheet of aluminum. Preferably, the plate 7 may be further provided with a flange 29 which contribute to improve the solidity of said plate 7. Advantageously, the flange 29 may be in contact with the sidewall 23.

Please replace paragraph [0063] with the following amended paragraph:

[0063] The duct means 9 has a sidewall 35, a hollow interior 37, a first end 39 and a second end 41. The first end 39 is mounted on the first plate 5 and has the hollow interior 37 in fluid communication with the first opening 27 of the first plate 5. The second end 41 is mounted to the second plate 7 and has the hollow interior 37 of the duct means 9 in fluid communication with the first opening 31 of said second plate 7. Said duct means 9 supports the second plate 7 above the first plate 5. The first plate 5 and the second plate 7 define with the sidewall 23 of the canister and the sidewall 35 of the duct means 9 an acoustic dampening chamber 43f. This acoustic dampening chamber 43 may be further provided with a lining 45 ~~44~~ of sound absorbing material and with an outlet 47 in the sidewall 23 of the canister 1.

Please replace paragraph [0066] with the following amended paragraph:

[0066] The motor-fan assembly 13 emits noise and vibration, rests freely against a seat 14 made of resilient vibration absorbing material and is mounted on the second plate 7 around the first opening 31. Said motor-fan assembly 13 may advantageously comprise ~~an~~ the electric motor 21, a vacuum fan 67 provided with an axial intake 69 in fluid communication with the first opening 31 of the second plate, a tangential outlet 71 and a piping 73 having a first end 75 in fluid communication with said tangential outlet 71, and a second end 77 in fluid communication with the inside of the acoustic dampening chamber 43. Said motor-fan assembly 13 generates a flow of working air from the inlet of the debris collection chamber 3 to the outlet 47 of the acoustic dampening chamber 43.

- 5 -

Commissioner for PatentsApplication No. 10/057,750

Please replace paragraph [0067] with the following amended paragraph:

[0067] Preferably a ring 8 of resilient vibration absorbing material may be provided to contribute to center the motor-fan assembly on the seat. Advantageously, this ring may be retained against the second plate 7 with another ring 10 (not shown) making an integral part of said plate 7. The motor fan assembly can move freely inside said ring 8. This ring only ~~maintain~~ maintains the motor-fan assembly centered with respect to the seat 14.

Please replace paragraph [0069] with the following amended paragraph:

[0069] Preferably, the piping ~~77~~ 73 may consist of PVC pipes that are substantially rigid. However, it is also possible to use other material. Alternatively, piping that are flexible or semi-flexible may also be used

Please replace paragraph [0072] with the following amended paragraph:

[0072] Preferably, a sleeve 79 of resilient vibration absorbing material is mounted around the second opening 33 of the second plate 7. This sleeve 79 has an interior of such size and orientation to allow a free axial sliding of said portion of the piping 73 passing across the second opening 33 while substantially preventing leak of working air and noise from the acoustic dampening chamber 43. Advantageously, the interior of the sleeve 79 is smaller than the opening 33 and ~~close the outer~~ similar in size of to the portion of piping 73 that may slide freely therein.

Please replace paragraph [0076] with the following amended paragraph:

- 6 -

Commissioner for PatentsApplication No. 10/057,750

[0076] The means 17 for generating a flow of cooling air for the electric motor and reducing the emission of noise resulting from the generation of said flow of cooling air, outside the canister 1 may preferably comprise the electric motor 21 which is further provided with a cooling fan 81 forcing a flow of cooling air from one end of the electric motor to an opposite end of said motor. Also, said canister may further comprise a fourth plate 83 extending across the hollow interior 25 of the canister 1 above the second plate 7, and a fifth plate 85 extending across the hollow interior 25 of the canister 1 above the fourth plate 83. The fourth plate 83 and the fifth plate 85 define with the sidewall 23 of the canister, a first chamber 87 in fluid communication with ~~a first~~ an inlet opening 89 (represented in FIG. 3 only with a dotted line) provided in the sidewall 23 of the canister 1 and defining an inlet for the cooling air for the electric motor and a second opening 91 across which a portion of a casing of said electric motor 21 is engaged. The second plate 7 and the fourth plate 83 define with the sidewall 23 of the canister 1 a second chamber 93 for the cooling air coming out the electric motor and evacuated outside the canister through an opening 95 (represented in FIG. 3 only with a dotted line) provided in the sidewall 23 of the canister 1 and in fluid communication with said second chamber 93.

Please replace paragraph [0078] with the following amended paragraph:

[0078] Advantageously, a set of second baffle means 97 may be further provided between the inlet opening 89 of the canister 1 and the second opening 91. Preferably, at least a portion of said second baffle means may be provided with a lining 98 of sound absorbing material. Advantageously, the second chamber 93 is further provided with a lining of sound absorbing material. Advantageously, the inlet opening 89 of the second chamber 93 and the outlet of the first chamber 87 are each provided with a muffler (preferably an outer muffler) having its interior provided with a lining of sound absorbing material. Preferably, both ~~muffler~~ mufflers are provided within a hollow member 99 ~~having~~ having parallel conduits 101 and 102. The

- 7 -

Commissioner for PatentsApplication No. 10/057,750

conduit 101 being in fluid communication with the interior of the first chamber 87 while the conduit 102 is in fluid communication with the second chamber 93.

Please replace paragraph [0079] with the following amended paragraph:

[0079] Preferably, the fifth plate 85 defines a cover to said canister 1 and may be advantageously fixed to the canister with small metal screws "S". Advantageously, because ~~the presence of~~ of the location of said second baffles means 97, the plate 83 is locked against the rib 86 and the motor-fan ~~assemble~~ assembly is prevented ~~to slip out from slipping out of~~ the ring 8 in the eventuality that said central vacuum power unit is reversed during transport.

Please replace paragraph [0081] with the following amended paragraph:

[0081] Advantageously, the hollow member 99 is firmly fastened to the canister 1 (preferably by any ~~appropriated~~ appropriate means such as welding) and may be further provided with means allowing to hang the central power unit to a wall (e.g. a bracket provided with holes in which screws may be inserted).

Please replace paragraph [0082] with the following amended paragraph:

[0082] Advantageously, a vacuum air intake may be located on the plate 85 (especially the top cover of the canister) and is connected preferably to a PVC tube 4 (preferably a 2 inches diameter PVC tube). The airflow is generated by the motor vacuum air fan ~~wieh~~ which draws air from the intake. Preferably, with reference to FIG. 4, there is a primary airflow path for the working air. The working air containing debris is drawn from the central vacuum air intake (in A) to the debris collecting chamber (B). Said debris are filtered by the filter and this "clean" air is then drawn into the motor vacuum air fan. Said "clean" air is then redirected, by the use of piping, to the substantially annular acoustic dampening chamber (C.) This chamber

- 8 -

Commissioner for PatentsApplication No. 10/057,750

has preferably on all its surfaces, an acoustic absorbing material that allow for significant noise reduction. Then the airflow is forced to go around the chamber to reach the outlet (D). The acoustic dampening chamber may be further provided with additional baffles to further improve the noise dampening.

Please replace paragraph [0084] with the following amended paragraph:

[0084] Advantageously, with reference to FIG. 5, the cooling air intake is located at the bottom of a the member 99 defining a-a the pair of mufflers. Cooling air enters at the bottom of the conduit 101 of the member 99(in A) and is drawn to the top cooling air chamber and enters this area by ~~an~~ the opening 89 (in B). This first canal has acoustical dampening material that absorbs noise generated within the motor cooling air circuit. The cooling air then enters in the motor cooling air intake after passing through ~~chicane~~ by the second baffle means (in C) which may be provided with acoustical dampening material on its surface. Advantageously, the top cover may also have acoustical dampening material on its surface, preferably on its internal surface. The air passes through the motor cooling path to cool the motor. Then the cooling air is rejected by the motor in the chamber 87(In D). Cooling air rejected by the motor enters at the bottom of the acoustical support after going through ~~an~~ the opening 95 and finally this air is drawn up through the conduit 102 of the member 99 to the exterior (in E). Conduits 101 and 102 may be further provided with a lining of sound absorbing material.

Please replace paragraph [0085] with the following amended paragraph:

[0085] Preferably, the muffler of the member 99 is intended to ~~lower~~ lower the noise emitted by the motor.

Please replace paragraph [0087] with the following amended paragraph:

- 9 -

Commissioner for PatentsApplication No. 10/057.750

[0087] Also, the member 99 may be provided with a bracket ~~151~~ (not shown) making an integral part of said member (advantageously fixed to the member by welding) and to allow the mounting of the central vacuum power unit to a wall thanks to screws ~~153~~.

Please replace paragraph [0088] with the following amended paragraph:

[0088] An alternative embodiment of the particularly preferred central vacuum power unit described hereinbefore, will now be described. In this alternative embodiment, parts that are similar to the one of the previous preferred embodiment will keep the same reference number incremented by 200. According to said alternative embodiment of the invention, the central vacuum power unit may comprise in combination a canister 201, a chamber 203 for collection debris, a first plate 205, a second plate 207, a third plate 208, a duct means 209, a motor fan assembly 213, a filtering means 211, ~~a first baffles means 213,~~ means 217 for generating a flow of cooling air for the electric motor 221 and means for reducing the emission of noises resulting for the generation of said flow of cooling air, outside the canister 201. The third plate 208 extending across the hollow interior and is provided with a first opening 228. As shown in FIG. 10, the canister 201 can be mounted on a wall by means of a hollow member 299 through which the cooling air is drawn before entering into the canister 201. An inlet opening 289 is defined in the canister 201 for receiving the air from the hollow member. The air is evacuated after having cooled the motor via an outlet opening 295. A bracket 251 can be integrally formed with the hollow member 299 for allowing the canister to be mounted on a wall by means of a screw 253.